

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A network system, comprising:

a plurality of network devices connected to a network; and

a managing device configured to:

manage network state information for managing and controlling the plurality of network devices included in the network, wherein the network state information includes unique information uniquely assigned to devices included in the network for identifying each device in the network ~~and the unique information is assigned by the managing device;~~

detect whether a new device is entered into the network;

identify a capability of the new device;

determine, based on the identified capability of the new device, whether the new device can be a management device managing the network and the plurality of network devices; and

transmit, if the new device is determined as the management device, the network state information to the new device such that the new device operates as the management device for subsequent network management.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The network system according to claim 12, wherein when the new device is connected to the network, the new device transmits an address of the new device to the managing device.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a network including a plurality of network devices and a managing device managing the plurality of network devices, the method comprising:

managing, by the managing device, network state information for managing and controlling the plurality of network devices included in the network, wherein the network state information includes unique information uniquely assigned to devices included in the network for identifying each ~~devices~~ device in the network, ~~and the unique information is assigned by the managing device;~~

detecting, by the managing device, whether a new device is entered into the network;

identifying, by the managing device, a capability of the new device;

determining, by the managing device, whether the new device can be a management device managing the network and the plurality of network devices based on the identified capability of the new device; and

transmitting, by the managing device, the network state information to the new device such that the new device operates as the management device for subsequent network management, if the new device is determined as the management device.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
transmitting, by the new device, an address of the new device to the managing device.

18. (New) The method according to claim 15,
wherein the plurality of network devices includes an original management device and at
least one other device, and

wherein the network state information is information that enables the new device to
assume network management duties from the original management device for the subsequent
network management.

19. (New) The network system according to claim 12,
wherein the plurality of network devices includes an original management device and at
least one other device, and

wherein the network state information is information that enables the new device to
assume network management duties from the original management device for the subsequent
network management.

20. (New) A network managing device adapted to configure a network including a
plurality of network devices, comprising:

a processor configured to

manage network state information for managing and controlling the plurality of
network devices included in the network, wherein the network state information includes

unique information uniquely assigned to devices included in the network for identifying each device in the network.

detect that a new device has entered into the network.

identify a capability of the new device.

determine whether the new device can be a management device adapted to manage the network and the plurality of network devices based on the identified capability of the new device. and

transmit the network state information to the new device to enable the new device to operate as the management device for subsequent network management, if the new device is determined as the management device,

wherein the plurality of network devices includes an original management device and at least one other device, and

wherein the network state information is information that enables the new device to assume network management duties from the original management device for the subsequent network management.